Appl. No. 10/616,799
Reply to Office action of November 23, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated.

1-76. CANCELLED

77. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a vacuum chuck, said vacuum chuck comprising a chuck body having first and second opposed surfaces, said method comprising:

forming in said first surface, a plurality of through holes extending between [[a]] said first ~~surface~~ and [[a]] second opposed surfaces ~~surface positioned opposite to each other, wherein said first surface and said second surface are disposed on a chuck body~~; and

~~patterning said first surface to produce a plurality of recesses, wherein a through hole of said plurality of through holes lies within said recess; and~~

etching into said first surface ~~to produce~~ a desired formation ~~upon said chuck body~~ including a recess having a nadir surface, with one of said plurality of through holes disposed in said nadir surface.

78. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 77 wherein said chuck body comprises an optical flat glass, wherein said second surface of said optical flat glass is substantially flat.

79. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 77 wherein said desired formation comprises a plurality of pins disposed on said first surface.

80. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 77 wherein ~~said desired formation comprises an annular~~ etching further includes providing said recess ~~disposed on said first surface~~ with an annular shape.

81. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 77 wherein ~~said desired formation comprises a plurality of concentric~~ etching further includes forming a plurality of annular recesses, a subset of which includes one of said plurality of through holes ~~disposed on said first surface~~.

82. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a vacuum chuck, said vacuum chuck comprising a chuck body having first and second opposed surfaces, said method comprising:

forming in said first surface, a plurality of through holes extending between [[a]] said first ~~surface~~ and [[a]] second opposed surfaces ~~surface positioned opposite to each other, wherein said first surface and said second surface are disposed on a chuck body~~; and

~~patterning said first surface to produce a plurality of recesses, wherein a through hole of said plurality of through holes lies within said recess; and~~

etching into said first surface ~~to produce~~ a desired formation ~~upon said chuck body~~ including a plurality of recesses each having a nadir surface, with each of said plurality of through holes disposed in one of said nadir surfaces.

~~wherein said second surface is substantially flat~~.

83. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 82 wherein said chuck body comprise an optical flat glass.

[[83]] 84. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 82 wherein said desired formation comprises a plurality of pins disposed on said first surface.

[[84]] 85. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 82 wherein ~~said desired formation comprises an annular~~ etching further includes providing said recess ~~disposed on said first surface~~ with an annular shape.

86. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 82 wherein ~~said desired formation comprises a plurality of concentric~~ etching further includes forming a plurality of annular recesses, a subset of which includes one of said plurality of through holes ~~disposed on said first surface~~.

87. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a vacuum chuck, said vacuum chuck comprising a chuck body having first and second opposed surfaces, said method comprising:

forming in said first surface, a plurality of through holes extending between [[a]] said first ~~surface~~ and [[a]] second opposed surfaces ~~surface positioned opposite to each~~

~~other, wherein said first surface and said second surface are disposed on a chuck body~~; and

~~patterning said first surface to produce a plurality of recesses, wherein a through hole of said plurality of through holes lies within said recess; and~~

etching into said first surface ~~to produce~~ a desired formation ~~upon said chuck body~~ including a recess having a nadir surface, with one of said plurality of through holes disposed in said nadir surface, wherein a cross-sectional area of said recess is greater than a cross-sectional area of said through hole.

~~wherein said chuck body comprises an optical flat glass, wherein said second surface of said optical flat glass is substantially flat.~~

[[89]] 88. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 87 wherein said desired formation comprises a plurality of pins disposed on said first surface.

[[90]] 89. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 87 wherein ~~said desired formation comprises an annular~~ etching further includes providing said recess ~~disposed on said first surface~~ with an annular shape.

[[91]] 90. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 87 wherein ~~said desired formation comprises a plurality of concentric~~ etching further includes forming a plurality of annular recesses, a subset

of which includes one of said plurality of through holes ~~disposed on said first surface~~.

91. (New) The method as recited in claim 77 wherein said first surface faces a substrate.

92. (New) The method as recited in claim 77 wherein a cross-sectional area of one of said plurality of recesses is greater than a cross-sectional area of one of said plurality of through holes.

93. (New) The method as recited in claim 82 wherein said first surface faces a substrate.

94. (New) The method as recited in claim 82 wherein said second surface is substantially flat.

95. (New) The method as recited in claim 82 wherein a cross-sectional area of said recess is greater than a cross-sectional area of said through hole.

96. (New) The method as recited in claim 87 wherein said first surface faces a substrate.

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